22.

A NEW

DISCOVERY

OF THE

Sham-Presbyterian Plot.

OR,

The ſubſtance of the Information of *James Carol*, given in upon Oath before the Right Honourable the *Lord Mayor* of *LONDON*, July 1681.

Together with an Account of the Apprehenſion of one *Lamport* an *Iriſh* Papiſt, that endeavoured to ſuborn the ſaid *Carol*. The ſaid *Lamport* being ſeized in his Bed the 10th. of this Inſtant *Auguſt*.

The Information of James Carol *a Proteſtant* Engliſhman *late of* Dublin, *and firſt Diſcoverer of the horrid Popiſh Plot in* Ireland, *in the Year* 1672. *ſworn, and examined before the Right Honourable Sr.* Patient Ward *Knight* Lord Mayor *of* London.

THis Informant ſaith, That he hath been enforced to expend, and been at above 1000. l. Damages by the unjuſt Proſecutions of Papiſts of great Power in *Ireland*, by reaſon of his Diſcovery of an Horrid Popiſh Plot carrying on in that Kingdom in 1672. which has been to the utter Ruine of Himſelf and his Family; His Wife dying big with Child in 1680. of Blows received from the Papiſts; and this Informant narrowly eſcaping with his Life: That in 1673. he was dealt with to retract his Evidence, and tempted thereunto with the promiſed reward of 500 l. But the Informant Refuſed to be prevailed with, conſidering the everlaſting Damage he muſt incur by ſuch unjuſt Actions: That about the beginning of *June* laſt, the Informant happened to meet with one *Peter Lamport*, an *Iriſh* Papiſt, and pretended Merchant, whoſe Lodging was in *Roſemary-Lane*, who inviting this Informant to drink a Diſh of Coffee with him at Mr. *Bridges* Coffee-houſe in Popes-head Ally, over againſt the Royal Exchange, carryed him into an obſcure and remote part of the Room alone, and then and there told this Deponent, That there had a long time been a great talk of a Popiſh Plot; But ſhortly it would be proved by many witneſſes, That it was only a Presbyterian Plot; and That thoſe that had endeavoured to make out a Popiſh Plot, would be ſeized and hang'd, if they would not turn it on the Presbyterians; And that the Earl of *Shafteſbury*, and ſeveral other Proteſtant Lords and others, would be ſeiz'd and ſent to the Tower; abuſing them, and many others, with many opprobrious and ſcandalous Names: And added,

That *Fitz Harris* is a great Rogue, and would be hang'd, although he now declares the Presbyterians imployed him, and will do any thing in hopes that his Majesty will pardon him; But there is the word of a King for it, He shall dye, for ther's no trusting him. You see, (said the said *Lamport*, further directing his discourse to this Informant) how you and others have been slighted a long time; Therefore take my Advice, be you concern'd in making it out to be a Presbyterian Plot. The Informant demanded, in what Particulars he might do it, and pray'd him to explain his mind.

Lamport replyed-- I am sure you understand me well enough; it is to be a Presbyterian Plot, and you will be easily believed and credited, having of late been conversant with them, and now is the time to make your own Terms; and were I in your case, I would make good Terms for my self. It will be the making of you: Therefore do not lose the Opportunity. To all which, the Informant made him only general civil Answers, and so for that time they parted.

This Informant further saith, That a Week or thereabouts afterwards, the said *Lamport* met him in Tower-street, and then demanded of him, what he thought of the Discourse they had the other day. This Informant replyed, I believe Sir, you are concern'd, and know much of these Affairs, as to the making it out to be a Presbyterian Plot. Then the said *Lamport* swore, That he did know as much as any man, and more than this Informant would believe; And that this Informant might take what he said for Truth: For (said he) did I not tell you, That some of the Lords would be seiz'd on suddenly, and sent to the Tower? and don't you find my words to be true?

The Informant answered, That he found some of his words to be true, for he had heard that the Lord *Howard* was Committed, and that he remembred their last Discourse very well. Yes, says *Lamport*, and you will hear of many more Warrants for the securing of several persons, for having an hand in this *Presbyterian*-Plot, and they sent to the *Tower* e're it be long. Therefore are you yet concern'd or imploy'd in the Business? To which this Informant, willing to sift his Intentions, replied, ---I have, Sir, been towards *Whitehal*, since you gave me that advice. That's well, said *Lamport*, take my counsel, and you'l do well; be concern'd, and neglect not your time, for you'll never have such another opportunity. And so again we parted.

Suddenly after the said *Lamport*, as I was credibly informed, went for *France*; and on the 26th of *July* I discovered this whole Transaction upon Oath, to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor. And understanding since, That the said *Lamport* was returned into *England*, on the 10th of this instant *August* he was seized in his Bed in *Rosemary*-Lane aforesaid; and being carried before Justice *Rycroft*, I there again testified the Truth of the Premises against him.

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